



## HOUSE DEMOCRATIC MANUFACTURING WORKING GROUP

### **An Uncertain Future**

In the wake of a global pandemic, the future of American manufacturing is more uncertain than ever. Changes in the workforce, new technologies and automation, and shifts in the global marketplace have created an inflection point for the U.S. manufacturing economy.

- **Vulnerabilities in the Supply Chain.** The Covid-19 pandemic exposed weaknesses in critical supply chains, with interruptions in delivering PPE, pharmaceuticals, food, and other important supplies.
- **Irregular Recovery.** Though U.S. manufacturing has been recovering since the onset of the pandemic, the recovery has been slow and uneven. Recent data from the Federal Reserve showed that manufacturing output in December 2020 was still below pre-pandemic levels, 2.8% lower than December 2019, and end of year growth lagged other industries.
- **Meeting Workforce Needs.** Given the changing nature of work in manufacturing, employers, workers, and policymakers must constantly adapt to meet evolving workforce demands.
- **Shifting Technology.** Changes in manufacturing – from increased use of nanotechnology in textile fibers to new semiconductors – have fundamentally altered the sector, presenting new opportunities for U.S. firms.

### **Building the Future of American Manufacturing**

With the rollout of a vaccine, the U.S. has a unique opportunity to rebuild a leading manufacturing economy. The House Democratic Manufacturing Working Group will bring Members and manufacturing stakeholders together to examine key issues for strengthening the American manufacturing sector:

- **Training & Education.** Invest in apprenticeships, occupational skills training, and colleges and universities to prepare American workers with skills that meet the demands of a diverse, modern manufacturing economy.
- **Sustainability.** Promote environmental sustainability throughout the manufacturing sector by minimizing environmental impacts and conserving energy while enhancing competitiveness.
- **Access to Markets.** Break down barriers to global markets and encourage small and mid-sized manufacturers to build their export profile.
- **Competition.** Promote American manufacturers of all sizes to compete with manufacturers in countries that already have firm frameworks in place.
- **Innovation.** Invest in new and expanded programs to spur innovation, boost economic efficiency, and increase global competitiveness.